

Department of the Army
Headquarters Fort Monroe
Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651-6000
16 May 1990

FM Regulation 11-2

Army Programs

MAYORAL PROGRAM

Summary. This regulation defines the scope and purpose of Fort Monroe's Mayoral Program.

Applicability. This regulation applies to mayors of Fort Monroe housing areas and the staff who provide support to the Mayoral Program.

Suggested improvements. Send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) through channels to Commander, Fort Monroe, ATTN: ATZG-PAA-FS, Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651-6100.

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1. Purpose. This regulation establishes a Mayoral Program at Fort Monroe to enhance the living environment and improve the quality of life for soldiers and their families who live in family housing. The Mayoral Program will--

- a. Create a formal line of communication to effectively indentify, assess, and resolve community issues and programs.
- b. Improve communication and coordination between the Fort Monroe staff and activities and the communities they serve.
- c. Create and foster an atmosphere of mutual cooperation and concern.
- d. Complement other programs impacting on the community (e.g.; law enforcement, safety, and self-help programs).
- e. Generate interest, pride, and satisfaction through personal involvement in neighborhood activities, projects, and programs.

2. Mayoral Program.

a. Fort Monroe will elect three mayors. There will be two mayors serving the government housing community (one for the officer community and one for the enlisted community) and one mayor serving the Wherry Housing community. Residents of Big Bethel Reservoir are included in the government housing community. Each mayor may appoint a staff and neighborhood committees.

b. These community mayors, resident military service member or spouse, will be elected for a 1-year term. All community mayors are volunteers and should be recognized as such when demands are made on their time.

3. Responsibilities. Mayors are responsible, not only to the community residents, but to the director of Personnel and Community Activities and the post commander. Mayors shall represent community issues and concerns--not personal interests. Each mayor should have a sincere interest in the position, an ability to communicate, and the ability to stand up for an issue. They should be well-versed in proper military etiquette and protocol and informed on how to make maximum use of the chain of command in order to be effective in reaching a solution before escalating an issue to a higher level. Issues should be handled at the lowest level of concern first; however, a mayor does not have to accept less than adequate support or inadequate answers to questions and may escalate the issue. The mayor will--

a. Serve as a facilitator or link between the community members and the post staff. The mayor will establish a method of disseminating information to the community and post staff.

b. Identify areas of concern and inform the post staff. The procedure is to provide information through the chief, Family Support Division, director of Personnel and Community Activities, to the post commander. The mayor must be sensitive to the needs, interests, and concerns of community residents. However, when dealing with controversial issues, the mayor must remain "neutral." Care must be taken to ensure that concerns are genuinely group issues and not the requests of individuals or special interest groups.

c. Coordinate the direction of activities developed by committees and councils within his/her respective community. Each mayor may establish a Community Council to help in conducting community affairs. The Community Council may develop

the ideas, issues, and concerns that the mayor projects to the post level in order to improve the quality of life of area residents.

d. Assist in developing, managing, and providing access to programs and services that will respond to neighborhood needs. Each mayor is encouraged to use existing agencies to the maximum possible. Where services or programs do not exist, the mayor, through the Mayor's Council, may work to institute a new service. Again, care should be given to assure that overall community needs are being met.

e. Assess the individual community in order to determine the types of issues that need community involvement. In assessing the issues of an area, the mayor must be able to look objectively at a situation and determine whether the issue will "improve the quality of life" and "affect the community as a whole." In order to be effective, the mayor must be able to prioritize issues; e.g., safety, health, and welfare issues should take precedence over community activities. The mayor is responsible for activities that generate a sense of pride in the community, such as Easter egg hunts, community picnics, Halloween activities, etc., being careful not to duplicate activities provided by other organizations such as Community Recreation, Youth Services, etc. Maintaining good public relations on post is an important part of the mayor's role.

f. When possible, attend or send a representative to meetings concerning the community, such as the Health Promotion Council, the Fort Monroe Family Action Council, and the Youth Services Council.

g. Hold community meetings as necessary for those controversial issues which affect the specific community. At these meetings, the mayor may wish to invite those staff members who can best explain the issue to be present at the meeting. The mayor must remain "neutral" during those meetings and provide an opportunity for everyone to be heard. The role of the mayor is to provide a method of communication between the residents and the post staff. The mayor is not the champion of causes and cannot assume that role. In the community meeting, the mayor is the facilitator--not the spokesperson. The mayor must establish specific ground rules and manage the meeting. Effective planning prior to the meeting will help lead the

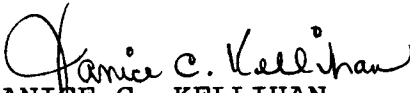
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discussion along lines that will provide maximum informational flow. A specific agenda will keep the meeting on track.

h. Attend Town Hall Meetings which are hosted by the post commander. Prior to the Town Hall Meeting, mayors will meet with the post commander to discuss agenda items.

i. Be replaced by vice mayor in the event he/she resigns.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


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